

*Congregational Church of New Fairfield, United Church of Christ
20 Gillotti Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812
203-746-2865 office@ccnf-ucc.org*

CANDLELIGHT - APRIL 2022

Hello Beloved Children!

Blessing to you all as we enter Spring! Are you feeling more hopeful and energized? We have been facing Covid19 pandemic challenges for so long now and there certainly appears to be a lifting of some of those concerns. We are again experiencing a change and transition time where we all, on our own timeline, make adjustments again to our lives. Let us share grace and peace with each other as we continue managing our concerns for our own health and the health of our loved ones.

I am so happy that we are gathering at church, it is wonderful to see those who are ready and able to participate in person. We continue to livestream our service and are excited to have worked through the sound issues with our new equipment. Many thanks go to our Tech Team, Tracy Yoho, Emily Wilt and Angela Kulp, and Carolyn Mueller for working together to bring our services online. Please share your feedback with us as we continually hope to improve your experience with worship services.

It is time now as we enter into Holy Week, the heart of our faith. We have important and hopefully meaning services to help you mark this time in your spiritual life and faith journey. Join us as we wave palms this Sunday celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Thursday we will remember the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples and his initiating our own sacramental communion. On Friday at noon we will have a short service remembering the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus for us. Our joyful celebration of Easter will begin at 6:30am outside in the garden followed by an Easter breakfast hosted by the Worship and Ministry Team and volunteers Gretchen Skidmore, Colleen McQuade and Will Kulp. We will celebrate with worship at 10am in the sanctuary. This worship will include anthems by the Senior Choir, our Children's Bell Choir and our Sacred Dancers. I hope you will join us for this time of gathering and praising God.

On March 24 I celebrated 3 years of being called as your pastor here at the Congregational Church of New Fairfield. This experience has been amazing for me and I feel so blessed to be here with you all on this journey for our congregation. As we look forward we know there are many ways that we embody God's love and share it with each other and our community. I look forward to working with you to engage ourselves more deeply in ministry to others. Our expression of God's love is essential to our congregation and to each of us as well. Please consider how you would like to be involved and a part of our ministries. There is room and a place for everyone. Just think of the ways that we can all connect and support one another. There is great need in each of us, we require support to continue on our life's journey. As disciples, we are each given unique gifts and opportunities to share and help others. I encourage you to be open to the ways that God moves you to give to the ministries of our congregation. And I look with excitement to see how God's love manifests in our church. Praise be to God!

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Liz

MODERATOR'S REPORT

As we enter the month of April we look forward to celebrating Easter with our wonderful church family. We also welcome the longer and (hopefully soon!) warmer days ahead. I would like to continue our discussion from the Congregational Meeting we had in March, regarding the various church teams and committees and areas where we can use your help. Below is the current nominating slate, and as you can see we have plenty of opportunities for you to contribute in the running of our church. Please take a look and let Pastor Liz or myself know if you'd like more information on any of these teams, or ask team members about their experiences and team opportunities directly.

Executive Committee At Large:

Three general representatives from the congregation membership; one-year terms; no term limits.

Betty Swan

Worship and Ministries Team:

Six Members; a three-year term with no more than two consecutive terms. Current term in parenthesis.

Emeritus: Ken Bass, Barbara Coelho, Kirk Dupas

Through May 31, 2024

Through May 31, 2023

Through May 31, 2022

Stephanie Shaughnessy (1)

Pam Schretzenmayer (1)

Ron Webb (2)

Liz DeLuca (1)

Trustees Team:

Four to Six members; a three-year term with no more than two consecutive terms. Current term in parenthesis.

Through May 31, 2024

Through May 31, 2023

Through May 31, 2022

Kathi Ellison (1)

Jackie Hutchings (1)

Todd Lovejoy (1)

Shane Cosentino (1)

Faith Formation Team:

Three to Six members; a three-year term with no more than two consecutive terms. Current term in parenthesis.

Through May 31, 2024

Through May 31, 2023

Through May 31, 2022

Dawna Lovejoy (2)

Adele Carey (1)

Lori Generali (1)

Jane Terlizzi (1)

Missions Team:

Three to Six members; a three-year term with no more than two consecutive terms. Current term in parenthesis.

Through May 31, 2024

Through May 31, 2023

Through May 31, 2022

Tori Cooke (1)

Will Anderson (1)

Marcia Semchyshen (1)

Teri Czudak (1)

Stewardship Team

Three members; a two-year term, with no limit to the number of consecutive terms

Through May 31, 2023

Through May 31, 2022

Katy Johannssen

Will Anderson

Hospitality Team

Three members; a two-year term, with no limit to the number of consecutive terms

Through May 31, 2023

Through May 31, 2022

Colleen McQuade

Dotty Norman

Scholarship Team

Three members; a two-year term, with no limit to the number of consecutive terms

Through May 31, 2023 Through May 31, 2022

Pam Dohan

Janice Zackeo

Sue Newton

Fairfield East / UCC Delegates

Two members; appointed annually by the Executive Council

Sue Webb

Ron Webb

Pastoral Relations Committee

Three members; appointed annually by the Executive Council

Betty Swan

Katy Johannssen

Pat Sacco

Investment Committee

Three members; appointed annually by the Executive Council

Tom Harkins

—

Brian Johannssen, Moderator

WORSHIP SERVICES

We will meet at 10 a.m. each Sunday. Along with in-person worship, we continue to offer the livestream of the service on our YouTube channel. If you need help connecting, virtually or otherwise, please let us know in the office and we will facilitate getting help for you. office@ccnf-ucc.org

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, noon

Easter Sunday: sunrise service at 6:30 a.m., followed by Easter breakfast

worship service at 10 a.m. with both choirs and sacred dance

USHERS and WELCOMERS!

Consider serving your fellow church members this season as an usher/welcomer for our Sunday services. Contact Stephanie by email to jiaowah@charter.net to sign up for an upcoming Sunday.



Remember to sign up as far in advance as possible. We will happily send you a reminder email during the week before your chosen Sunday(s).



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

It's hard to believe that Easter is just around the corner!

We will be having our annual Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday, April 10th right after church. Bring your Easter baskets and have fun looking for all of the hidden eggs.

We hope you have been adding coins to your Lenten boxes for all of those chores and good deeds that you have been doing. We will be collecting those boxes on Sunday, April 24 and making a donation to help the people of Ukraine.

Please consider volunteering to lead Sunday school classes. Sign up with a friend, it's fun and your children will love it. We provide the curriculum, but are always open to your ideas. We will buy any materials needed, and you provide the time.

Pastor Liz is looking for children willing to participate in worship by lighting our candles, ringing the bell and leading the Call to Worship. We are happy to work with your child so they are comfortable in this way to be a part of worship. Please let us know if you have any questions. The calendar is wide open right now. Contact Pastor Liz or call Carolyn in the office to sign up.

MISSIONS UPDATE

The Missions Team worked together with Faith Formation to have our Compassionate Kids gather after Sunday School and assemble hygiene kits. These kits will be distributed to people in need by Church World Service (CWS). Such a great way for children to come together to share God's love with others in need. Thank you families for helping! What amazing work we can accomplish when working together! So proud of our CCFN children!



BUNDLES OF CARE: DONATIONS NEEDED

We have distribution day on the first Tuesday of each month. We offer bundles on a monthly basis of the following items: **diapers and wipes, pet food, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items and snacks & juice for children**. Thanks to Gretchen Skidmore for organizing Bundles of Care every month and to Barb Coelho and Marcia Semchysen who have been helping during distribution days.

Donations of items for our bundles may be dropped off at church during office hours, Tuesdays - Fridays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call the office at 203-746-2865 for help bringing your donations to the sorting area. If you are interested, want to sign up or have questions, please email missions@ccnf-ucc.org.

Items most urgently needed for Bundles of Care:

Dish Soap **Feminine Hygiene Products** **Juice Boxes** **Razors & Shaving Cream**
Cleaning Sprays or Wipes **Shampoo & Conditioner (10 oz. or smaller)** **Toilet Paper**

The only food items to donate at the church are the following lunch snacks for kids:

Crackers **Cookies** **Granola Bars** **Juice Boxes**

Any other food you wish to donate should be donated directly to the New Fairfield Food Pantry - call Cindy White at 203-312-5669.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

THE CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR



Pictured below, in both pictures, are members of the Children's Bell Choir as they rehearse under the direction of Rev. Carl Anderson and Betsy Anderson.



Children's Bell Choir!

The Children's Bell Choir has begun practicing. This is a wonderful opportunity for children in kindergarten and up to share music in our worship service. They meet for about 20 minutes after church school on Sundays.

The children will be enhancing our worship service as they acquire new skills as bell ringers and this is a great way for children to participate in the service as a group. If you have any questions, please contact Rev Carl Anderson at carl4music@gmail.com or call him at 203-654-1142.

CHECK OUT THE ASP FLOWER FUNDRAISER ON SUNDAY

The ASP crew have put together beautiful pots of pansies that will be for sale Sunday, April 3 and April 10. Expect prices in the \$10 range. You only need to make your selection and pay, and you'll leave with some of the cheeriest flowers of spring, already blooming to brighten your day! Come support the Appalachian Service Project and enjoy some spring cheer at the same time!



COFFEE CREW NEEDED

Now that we've resumed having fellowship after the Sunday service, it's time to take a turn helping with it - meaning, help set up, make coffee and clean up afterwards. Look for the signup sheet while you're here on Sunday and pick a Sunday to help. For more information, see Dotty Norman or Colleen McQuade.



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Committee- Pam Dohan, Sue Newton and Janice Zackeo - would like to remind the congregation of our Scholarship Fund. Applications can be picked up at the Church office. The Scholarship will be awarded in June. Your application should be completed and sent to the church no later than **May 15**. This will give the committee a chance to review them.

Eligibility: A person actively affiliated with the Congregational Church of New Fairfield

Criteria which may be considered for selection are: Service to church, service to school, service to community, financial need, scholastic performance

CALL TO SHARE

We have begun a 'Call to Share' during worship each week where we have an opportunity to hear from each other. Everyone is encouraged to take a turn and share very briefly one of the things that is important to them about CCNF and why they give. This share can be done in person or in writing. Please consider sharing your thoughts with us. Speak to Katy Johannssen, Will Anderson or Pastor Liz to schedule your turn. Everyone can share and we look forward to hearing from you.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, April 12th, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room at the church. Please wear masks and join us to knit, crochet or loom and for some fellowship in the conference room. All ages welcome! If you craft, or want to learn, we can help you. You can make a beautiful shawl for someone, imbued with prayers for healing and comfort. All you need to bring is: to knit -- knitting needles size 13, either long straight ones or circular; to crochet -- a crochet hook size K or N; to loom -- a loom (long rectangular). These shawls are a loving gift for anyone in need.

We also are making Baptism Baby Blankets. We use white baby yarn for these. If you want to make one of these, please bring a Size G crochet hook or Size 8 knitting needles/circular needles to the next meeting. For more information, call Dot Bass at 203-746-2855 or email dcbass@sbcglobal.net; or call Sue St. Hilaire at 203-778-1474 or cell 203-300-6220, or email sshilaire@sbcglobal.net.

If you would like to request a shawl, please contact Sue, Dot or Pastor Liz.

If the weather is bad, please contact Sue or Dot before coming out.



*Serving at
Dorothy Day*

DOROTHY DAY HOSPITALITY HOUSE

We are serving at Dorothy Day on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Our next day will be **April 27**. We will meet at the kitchen at 1:30 to start bagging the meals. We will also be serving a hot meal to go. We have a limited number of volunteers who can work so please let us know if you would like to help. We are normally finished between 4 -4:30pm.

Serving at Dorothy Day is a wonderful way to be the hands and feet of Christ, serving those in need. If you have any questions or would like some more information, please contact Pastor Liz. pastor@ccnf-ucc.org

In addition to serving meals, the Dorothy Day volunteers distribute free clothing in the shelter behind the kitchen every Wednesday and Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. Many day laborers send their earnings home to support families in Central America and can't afford clothing for themselves. There is a big need for gently used clothing for men - particularly jeans, hoodies, fleeces, jackets and boots. Please check the Wish List for sizes that are in demand (listed in the 'For the Shower' category).

Following is the Dorothy Day Wish List for April. If you would like to bring donations of these items to the church for volunteers to bring to Dorothy Day on our scheduled service day, please bring them to Pilgrim Hall by Tuesday, April 26, and let Pastor Liz or Carolyn know your donation is for Dorothy Day.

For the Grab & Go bags: chips, granola bars, homemade cookies
 To hand out: Mens' jersey work gloves, bar soap deodorant, tooth paste
 For the Dorothy Day kitchen: Canned chili, beef stew, tuna or chicken
 For the Shower: men's jeans: 32,34,36 waist, hoodies, sweatpants, boxer briefs, white socks, gently used jackets

CCNF THRIFT SHOP

The church's clothing donation shed is open and receiving your usable donated clothes, shoes, belts and handbags. The Thrift Shop will be open April 16th and May 7th for shopping from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Masks, physical distancing, and a limit of people in each room will be required to be open.



DRUMMING CIRCLE

We meet on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall to create a beat in fellowship with others. Newcomers are always welcome. We typically have an extra drum you are welcome to use. For more information please contact Jerry Gay (jerrygay78@aol.com).



Upcoming meetings and Events

As usual these days, all Team meetings are held online.



Sat, April 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sun, April 3, 10 a.m.

Sun, April 3, 11:15 a.m.

Sun, April 3, 12:15 p.m.

Mon, April 4, 7 p.m.

Tues, April 5, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tues, April 5, 7 p.m.

Thurs, April 7, 6:30 p.m.

Sun, April 10, 10 a.m.

Sun, April 10, 11 a.m.

Sun, April 10, 11 a.m.

Sun, April 10, 11 a.m.

Tues, April 12, 7 p.m.

Wed, April 13, 7 p.m.

Thurs, April 14, 6:30 p.m.

Thurs, April 14, 7 p.m.

Fri, April 15, noon

Sat, April 16, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sun, April 17, 6:30 a.m.

Sun, April 17, 10 a.m.

Mon, April 18, 7 p.m.

Thrift Shop Open

Worship - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Children's Bell Choir

Summer Play Meeting

Drumming Circle

Bundles of Care distribution

Pondering the Psalms

Worship & Ministry Team Meeting

Worship - Palm Sunday

Easter Egg Hunt

Children's Bell Choir

Confirmation Gathering

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Trustees Team Meeting

Worship & Ministry Team Meeting

Maundy Thursday Service

Good Friday Service

Thrift Shop Open for shopping

Worship - Easter Sunrise Service

Worship - Easter Sunday

Drumming Circle

Wed, April 20, 7 p.m.

Thur, April 21, 7 p.m.

Sun, April 24, 10 a.m.

Tues, April 26, 4 p.m.

Wed, April 27, 12:30 - 5 p.m.

Wed, April 27, 7 p.m.

Mission Team Meeting

Faith Formation Team Meeting

Worship - Second Sunday of Easter

Bundles of Care Requests due

Dorothy Day Serving

Executive Council Meeting

Thank you for supporting the missions of the Congregational Church of New Fairfield, UCC!
